

## Amanda Arnold Teaches at the Bear's Den

Submitted by: Shanna Drake

Amanda Arnold with the Butler County Conservation District has recently begun teaching a class at the Bear's Den in Butler County. The Bear's Den is an after school program offered by the Butler County School System. At Bear's Den students receive a snack and homework assistance, along with other instruction. During summer break, Arnold taught three days of classes. The classes were divided into four groups, with each group receiving instruction for approximately one hour. The grade level of the students participating in the summer program ranged from kindergarten through the eighth grade. There were approximately 60 students in the summer program.

Since school has reconvened, Arnold has taught three classes and will be teaching six more this semester. She is teaching one class per week for nine weeks. In the current class there are about thirteen students whose grade levels are between first and fifth. To date, she has taught about soil and the importance of it; soil erosion and ways to prevent it; and soil texture. In the future she plans to give a soil erosion demonstration. Arnold hopes that through these classes the students will have a better understanding of where they get their food. Arnold, who has been an employee of the Butler County Conservation District since 2003, says, "It is truly an eye opening experience to work with these groups of students. Despite living in a rural community, I've realized that many students are often several generations removed from a farming background."